

NEW YORK TIMES

JUL 23 1964

## Menaced Malaysia

Prime Minister Rahman of Malaysia is meeting with President Johnson in an effort to enlist greater American support for his country, now faced with a two-front menace. Indonesian President Sukarno threatens to "crush" Malaysia this year, a threat backed by Soviet arms. And there is a resurgence of Communist, principally Chinese, terrorism which has precipitated serious riots in Singapore and elsewhere.

Malaysia is one of the few countries to have won a decisive victory over Communist guerrillas. But under the impact of Sukarno's armed confrontation of Malaysia with Indonesian guerrillas in North Borneo, the Chinese and Indonesian Communists are joining forces in an attempt to infiltrate the country and organize another front on the inside. The preponderance of Chinese in Singapore makes it particularly vulnerable for such efforts.

In these circumstances Prime Minister Rahman feels that the attack on Malaysia is as serious a threat to the free world as is that in Vietnam and Laos. He asks greater support for Malaysia's measures of self-defense. That support has been limited thus far. The ANZUS powers—the United States, Australia and New Zealand—stated at their recent conference that the defense of Malaysia was "in the first instance" a responsibility of the British Commonwealth. Britain, Australia and New Zealand do provide military support, but both the United States and Britain consider Malaysia primarily an Asian problem to be solved by Asians.

Prime Minister Rahman himself does not solicit large American military aid at this point, but he does ask for greater moral support and a more effective American stand against Indonesia. He should get it in the interest of both peace and the free world.